



BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

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VIA Email

Hon. Mike Farnworth
Minister of Transportation and Transit
Government of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca

May 6, 2025

Dear Minister Farnworth:

RE: FAIR FERRY FUNDING

British Columbians rely on our ferry system the way others rely on roads and bridges. It's essential public infrastructure. When ferry fares rise or sailings are cut, it's workers, families, and small businesses that pay the price.

We appreciate that your government stepped in with \$500 million to help cap fare increases. But the fact remains: BC continues to do the heavy lifting while the federal government underfunds marine transportation—especially compared to Atlantic Canada.

The federal government has pledged more than \$125 million in new support for ferry operations in Eastern Canada and has promised to cut fares by half on multiple routes. Meanwhile, BC Ferries received no mention in the 2024 federal budget, and the \$75 million loan issued in 2023 remains just that—a loan.

When asked about this discrepancy on the campaign trail, Prime Minister Carney said that he's open to working with the province. That's not good enough. Ferry-dependent communities in BC deserve equitable treatment.

We're asking you to stand up with us and call on the federal government to establish permanent, equitable ferry funding indexed to inflation and ridership and invest in Canadian shipbuilding and good union jobs.

As Premier Eby has said affordable ferry service is essential for BC's economy and quality of life. With a new federal government in place, we believe this is a key moment to press for lasting change.

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AFFILIATED WITH:

BC Federation of Labour

BC General Employees' Union

Canadian Labour Congress

National Union of Public & General Employees

International Transport Workers' Federation

Page 2
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We would be happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss how we can work together on this.

Sincerely,
BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric McNeely', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric McNeely
Provincial President

cc: Hon. David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Nicolas Jimenez, CEO BC Ferries